

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 045441

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TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 045441

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, HU
SUBJECT: EXCHANGES: IREX AND DEAK CASE

REF.: BUDAPEST 443, 464

1. KASSOF HAS INFORMED DEPARTMENT OF TELEX FROM ROSTA FEBRUARY 28 SAYING LATTER UNABLE MEET KASSOF IN VIENNA MARCH 11 AND 12 BUT SUGGESTING EAST BERLIN A FEW DAYS LATER. IN VIEW OF ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENTS SINCE HIS LAST MESSAGE TO ROSTA, KASSOF SENT TELEX AGREEING TO COME TO BUDAPEST FOR TALKS MARCH 11 AND 12.
2. KASSOF WILL ARRIVE BUDAPEST 1615 MARCH 10 ON AUSTRIAN AIRLINES FLIGHT 801. LEAVES BUDAPEST 0915 MARCH 13 ON SWISSAIR 469. WILL WELCOME OPPORTUNITY SEE DACHI AT AIRPORT ON ARRIVAL IF CONVENIENT. OTHERWISE WILL CALL DACHI AT HOME FROM HOTEL.
3. ACCORDING TO KASSOF, DEAK TELEPHONED NEWS TO MATTHEWS (IREX) THAT HE HAD RECEIVED POLGAR LETTER NOTED REFTELS, SAID LANGUAGE WAS SOMEWHAT FLIPPANT BUT APPARENTLY WAS NOT DISTURBED BY IT. ALTHOUGH KASSOF HAS NOT TALKED
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PAGE 02 STATE 045441

WITH DEAK SINCE LETTER ARRIVED, HE UNDERSTANDS THAT DEAK

INTENDS APPLY FOR VISA SOMETIME IN MAY WHEN BREAK COMES IN TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SCHEDULE. DEAK HAS NOT TOLD IREX WHAT, IF ANYTHING, HE HOPES TO DO IN BUDAPEST OTHER

THAN TO VISIT HIS FATHER, BUT IN ANY CASE HAS NOT RAISED ANY QUESTIONS OR ENTERED RESERVATIONS ABOUT KASSOF TRIP TO BUDAPEST.

4. KASSOF TOLD DEPARTMENT THAT, IN VIEW OF HUNGARIAN STEPS RE. DEAK, HE IS TAKING WITH HIM APPLICATIONS OF IREX SCHOLARS FOR 1974-75 EXCHANGE YEAR AND WILL GIVE THEM TO ROSTA, UNLESS SOMETHING UNEXPECTED COMES UP AT START OF DISCUSSIONS. HE DESCRIBED SITUATION FOLLOWING DEAK'S RECEIPT OF POLGAR LETTER AS "SUBSTANTIALLY RESOLVED" AND WAS CONFIDENT THAT BOARD WOULD RAISE NO OBJECTION TO REINSTATEMENT OF PROGRAM. KASSOF'S OPTIMISM APPARENTLY BUOYED IN PART BY RECENT CONCILIATORY LETTERS SENT BY ROSTA IN REPLY TO NUMBER OF LETTERS SENT TO HIM BY U.S. SCHOLARS PROTESTING DEAK EXPULSION. ROSTA ORIGINALLY TOLD KASSOF DURING PREVIOUS VIENNA MEETING THAT HE INTENDED TO REPLY TO THEM THAT DEAK WAS NOT EXPELLED BECAUSE HE WAS A SCHOLAR BUT FOR REASONS HAVING NOTHING TO DO WITH HIS ACADEMIC STANDING. KASSOF URGED HIM NOT TO TAKE THIS LINE, EXPLAINED THAT TO DO SO WOULD ONLY FURTHER ALIENATE AN IMPORTANT SEGMENT OF U.S. ACADEMIC COMMUNITY. KASSOF RECENTLY SAW ROSTA'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SIMPLY EXPRESSING THANKS FOR LETTER HE SENT, AND ADDING THAT VIEWS EXPRESSED THEREIN BEING TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION BY AUTHORITIES CONCERNED WITH DEAK CASE.

5. KASSOF PROVIDED FOLLOWING HISTORICAL FOOTNOTE: DURING VIENNA TALK WITH ROSTA, PROFESSOR LEDERER ASKED EXACTLY WHAT DEAK WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE DONE THAT CAUSED HIM TO BE EXPELLED. ROSTA PAUSED LONG BEFORE REPLYING: HE ENDANGERED THE SECURITY OF THE HUNGARIAN STATE. BUT WHAT DID HE DO? AN EVEN LONGER PAUSE: I DON'T KNOW.

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